

LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL

PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING DOCUMENT

The 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark (L&C) Expedition is 2003-2006. Two of the five national signature events planned for our three-state area depend heavily on BLM-administered lands. In June and July 2005, *Explore! The Big Sky* used BLM lands extensively for the opening ceremonies and other key elements of the 34-day event. *Clark on the Yellowstone* will occur July 22-25, 2006, at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. This is the only one of the 15 national signature events to occur entirely on federal lands.

ISSUES

The L&C Bicentennial is a national initiative that spans multiple jurisdictions and involves local communities, tribal governments and private organizations. The bicentennial is drawing enthusiasts from across the country and abroad, placing significant pressure on public lands along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT).

The BLM manages about 330 miles of land along the L&C NHT. Of the 330 BLM miles, 310 are in Montana and include the crown jewels of the trail -- Pompeys Pillar and the Upper Missouri River Breaks national monuments.

Because of the significant land base managed by Montana BLM, the Bicentennial is an incredible opportunity for our agency to increase public awareness about BLM, natural resources and stewardship. Visitors to public lands along the L&C NHT will leave with an impression of how public lands are managed. The BLM continues to be a major partner and participant in this commemoration.

The BLM's interactive exhibit has been traveling with the National Park Service Corps of Discovery II exhibit for the last year. Public response to this educational and fun exhibit has been outstanding, with teachers and others calling it the best exhibit on the entire trail.

MAIN DECISION OR MESSAGE:

With the L&C Bicentennial now being commemorated in our three-state area, we have shifted funding priorities from infrastructure improvements to an operational emphasis. In this final year of the Bicentennial commemoration, national attention will be drawn to the BLM management of Pompeys Pillar National Monument. However, we need adequate resources to ensure safety, security, and protection on-the-ground and are seeking alternative funding opportunities for the entire program through partnerships with other agencies and private organizations.

BUREAU PERSPECTIVE

The Corps of Discovery spent more travel time in Montana than in any other state and visitation to FY05 venues indicate that thousands will attend the National Signature Event at Pompeys Pillar and other BLM sites along the trails.

Key partners include Montana L&C Bicentennial Commission; the National L&C Trail Heritage Foundation; and our private sector partners in the national signature events occurring in our three-state area.

Local economies will benefit from increased tourism; however, many challenges are associated with increased visitation to public lands and BLM needs to be prepared. We will continue to work with our partners to address resource needs to provide quality, safe visitor experiences and maintain the integrity of the trail.

CONTACT

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